

Transportation

How “Getting There,” is Getting Easier

The Issue

Access to transportation affects one’s opportunities to work, socialize, get an education, obtain health care, and participate in community, religious, and political activities. 30% of all Americans with disabilities have difficulty obtaining adequate transportation.¹

Vermont Progress

The Division of the Blind and Visually Impaired provides transportation in the Volunteer Services Program.²

Each year, over \$2 million is dedicated to the Vermont Public Transportation Association for the purchase of lifted-equipped vehicles and/or services. The program provides the elderly, and persons with disabilities with transportation to places of employment, vocational training, and medical related trips.

Wheels Transportation is a non-profit community transportation brokerage that services 23 towns through 17 routes in both Washington and Orange counties. The program’s vehicles are lifted-equipped and have the ability to operate seven days a week. During the fiscal year 2002, *Wheels Transportation* provided its community members with 275,000 rides.³

The Chittenden County Transportation Authority (CCTA) provides transit services in 7 communities in Chittenden County, including transportation for Medicaid recipients and a contracted paratransit service for people unable to use the bus. All 41 CCTA buses are equipped with wheelchair lifts and stair kneelers. In fiscal year 2000, CCTA provided almost 145,000 non-emergency medical trips for Medicaid recipients, almost 4,000 rides to wheelchair users, and the Special Services Transportation Agency provided almost 16,000 rides to people who could not use the bus.

The Town & Village Bus in southeastern Vermont has 6 major year-around routes and two winter routes. It supplies people along Route 5 with rides to employment

¹ National Organization on Disability

² Vermont Department for the Blind and Visually Impaired, 103 South Main Street, Waterbury VT

³ Vermont Public Transportation Association website, *Wheels Transportation*

in Brattleboro, and provides transportation for those in the Medicaid or Reach-Up program. All Town & Village Buses are equipped for wheelchairs, and for those who are not along one of the seven routes, paratransit transportation is available.⁴

National Progress

The Transportation Security Administration, created by Congress last November, has delegated a staff member to work full-time on travelers with disabilities. For the first time, all 429 commercial airports in this country will adopt a uniform system with convenient yet proper procedures for the security screening of travelers with disabilities.⁵

<http://netransit.topcities.com/Vermont/index.htm> gives information on many different types of transportation available throughout Vermont.

⁴ www.townandvillagebus.com/townbus.htm

⁵ New York Times, [Easier Airline Screening for Disabled Travelers](#), 08/11/02